

FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

February 10, 2020

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Monday, February 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Finance Committee Room, Town Hall with the following members present: M. Trudell, J. Burke, S. Ahern, B. Bain, A. Flowers, K. Greulich A. Hamilton, L. Romanowiz, D. Shea, M. Sullivan, and L. Van der Linden. Members absent were: D. Crowley, S. Lawson, M. Ahigian and J. Fisher. Also in attendance was Town Administrator J. Johnson, Finance Director M. Thompson, and Fire Chief T. Bailey.

7:00 p.m. – Quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by the Chairman M. Trudell.

May 4, 2020 Spring Annual Town Meeting

FY21 School Budget – Speaking to this budget was Superintendent of Schools Dr. B Gough, W. Hahn, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. J. Queally, Special Ed Director, and N. Gallivan, School Committee Member.

Superintendent Gough presented an overview of the FY21 School Budget. FY20 Budget is \$46,092,835, proposed budget is \$48,302,835, which represents a 4.8% increase. (\$2,210,000) /School Administration and School Committee begin working on the budget in the summer and present their findings the end of January to the School Committee.

School Department anticipates a reduction of \$315,000 in Medicaid reimbursement and an additional \$277,000 in Special Education requirements. School Department needs an additional \$324,000 to maintain level services and meet mandates. They are presently reviewing fees to maximize revenue. Bus contract is due to be negotiated.

Budget drivers are the Health/Wellness program at the high school, ESOL teacher, Kindergarten Free and reduced and ESP ESOL. In addition they would like two elementary counselors, Transition Coach MS, .4 Computer science teacher, Dropout prevention work study coordinator, and further reduction in Full Day K. Total new positions for FY21 is \$520,000. (4.8% increase).

They are looking into ways to discuss a partnership with the Council on Aging.

The MSBA voted last Fall to invite the Town to conduct a Feasibility Study for the Bird Middle School with the consideration of Johnson Middle School for potential consolidation of grades 6-8.

Dr. Queally presented an overview of the Special Education Programs and updated the Committee on the Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan: Foster and strengthen the social-emotional well-being of the school

community, Identify and provide professional development and resources, embed consistent social emotional learning practices and engage, educate and partner with families and community.

Meeting Schedule

Next Scheduled meeting with the School Committee will be held on Thursday, March 5, 2020.

Adjourn:

MOTION MADE by M. Trudell, Seconded by J. Burke, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m., Motion Passed (11-0-0) (11 voting) Unanimous
Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril
Clerk